

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00032 01 OF 02 061237Z
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST NIACI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9990

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DUBLIN 0032

FOR DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ANDERSON

DEPT FOR EUR/NE SCHALLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EI

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REFUELING VISIT TO IRELAND

REF: SECTO 13112

1. PLEASE CONVEY TO THE SECRETARY OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO
IRELAND. AMBASSADOR SHANNON GREATLY REGRETS HE WILL NOT BE
PRESENT FOR HIS VISIT.

2. AS DISCUSSED ON THE PHONE, OUR SUGGESTED SCENARIO:

-- SECRETARY AND PARTY ARE MET AT THE PLANE RAMP BY
FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY AND MRS. O'KENNEDY.
CHARGE JACK RENDAHL AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL JOHN BURKE
WILL BE PRESENT.

-- THE IRISH ANTICIPATE NO MICROPHONES OR REPORTERS AT
DEBARKING, BUT PHOTOGRAPHERS AND TV CAMERAS WILL POSSIBLY
FILM THE EVENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00032 01 OF 02 061237Z

-- FORNMIN AND WIFE WILL ESCORT SECRETARY AND MRS.
VANCE TO VIP LOUNGE IN THE AIRPORT. REFRESHMENTS FOR
APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES. EMBASSY STAFF AND IRISH
OFFICIALS WILL BE ON HAND TO GREET OTHER VIP'S IN
SECRETARY'S PARTY.

-- FORNMIN AND WIFE WILL ESCORT THE PARTY ON A TOUR

OF THE WELL-KNOWN SHANNON DUTY-FREE SHOP. SUGGESTIONS: ARAN SWEATERS, HANDMADE HATS FOR MEN, WATERFORD CRYSTAL, BELEEK CHINA. PURCHASES CAN BE MADE IN DOLLARS AND WILL GET TO THE PLANE.

-- FORNMIN WILL ESCORT THE SECRETARY TO A SHORT MEETING WITH THE PRESS, 5-10 MINUTES. SUGGESTED BRIEF STATEMENT BELOW. BY TELCON WE UNDERSTAND EUR/NE IS SENDING TALKING POINTS AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL. DURING MEETING WITH THE PRESS THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN IN DUTY-FREE SHOP WILL BE ESCORTED BY EMBASSY AND IRISH OFFICIALS.

-- FORNMIN WILL ESCORT SECRETARY TO PLANE. WE SUGGEST THAT SECRETARY MIGHT INVITE MR. AND MRS. O'KENNEDY ON PLANE FOR A BRIEF FAREWELL, PERHAPS 10 MINUTES.

-- BOARDING THE PLANE MAY BE COVERED BY PHOTOGRAPHERS, BUT NO REPORTERS, INSOFAR AS WE CAN MANAGE.

3. SUGGEST FOLLOWING STATEMENT FOR MEETING WITH THE PRESS:

THIS WARM GREETING IN OUR BRIEF REFUELING STOPOVER IN IRELAND REINFORCES MY LONG-HELD VIEWPOINT -- IRELAND AND AMERICA, WE ARE FAMILY. PRESIDENT CARTER COULD USE THAT SOUTHERN PHRASE BETTER THAN I CAN, BUT FOR MYSELF AND MY WIFE AND ALL OF US ON THIS TRIP, I

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00032 01 OF 02 061237Z

JUST WANT TO SAY HELLO AND GIVE YOU OUR BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR. (HERE PERHAPS A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIP.)

SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT FAIL-CHA (FAILTE), OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, MEANS "WELCOME" IN IRISH. WELL, I'M SORRY TO ADMIT THAT I DON'T SPEAK ANY IRISH, BUT I WILL REMEMBER THAT ONE WORD, AND HOPE THAT I WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF HEARING IT AGAIN FOR A LONGER VISIT ON THIS BEAUTIFUL GREEN COUNTRYSIDE.

MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, MICHAEL, THANK YOU FOR THIS TREMENDOUS WELCOME. I HAVE HEARD THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S MOTHER ENJOYED HER VISIT HERE SO MUCH THAT SHE IS THINKING OF APPLYING FOR IRISH CITIZENSHIP, AND IF THE REST OF US RUN INTO TROUBLE WE MIGHT DO THE SAME.

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00032 02 OF 02 061245Z

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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 DUBLIN 0032

FOR DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ANDERSON

DEPT FOR EUR/NE SCHALLER

QUITE SERIOUSLY, AND QUITE SINCERELY, I WANT TO REITERATE HERE THE PRESIDENT'S FEELING TOWARD IRELAND. HE LOOKS UPON IRELAND AS A STAUNCH FRIEND, AND A STRONG, ENERGETIC, MORALLY COMMITTED DEMOCRATIC STATE. WE APPRECIATE THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLL THAT IRELAND PLAYS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE IN THE EC, IN THE UN AND IN ITS EXPANDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

I ALSO WANT TO MAKE THE SIMPLE POINT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES, SEPARATED BY A SMALL OCEAN, SHARE SO MANY COMMON IDEALS AND FAMILIAL TIES, THAT, IN FACT, I DON'T FEEL LIKE I AM VISITING A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THERE IS A LITTLE WATER YET TO BE CROSSED, BUT IN FACT I FEEL THAT WE ARE HOME.

MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, COULD YOU EXPRESS TO THE TEE-SHOOK (PRIME MINISTER) MR. LYNCH, AND THROUGH HIM TO ALL THESE WELCOMING PEOPLE OF IRELAND, OUR HEARTFELT GREETINGS, THANKS FOR A GREAT RECEPTION, AND OUR PROMISE TO COME AGAIN FOR A LONGER STAY IN "IRELAND -- OF THE WELCOMES"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00032 02 OF 02 061245Z

(A STATEMENT USED BY THE IRISH TOURIST BOARD)

END STATEMENT

4. AT AGE FORTY-ONE, MICHAEL O'KENNEDY IS A RELATIVE NEWCOMER IN IRISH POLITICS. SINCE HIS ELEVATION AFTER

THE JUNE ELECTION OF LAST YEAR HE HAS MOVED INTO THE JOB WITH ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM, AND SEL CONFIDENCE. HE HAS A KIND OF FIEFDOM IN COUNTY TIPPERARY AND COMES FROM A FAMILY PROMINENT IN THE 1916-21 INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. HIS RATHER TYPICAL IRISH EDUCATION THROUGH UNIVERSITY AND LAW SCHOOL INCLUDED AN ATYPICAL STINT ON THE CONTINENT, MOSTLY IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE HE BECAME FLUENT IN FRENCH AND ITALIAN, WITH SOME FACILITY IN GERMAN. AFTER A PERIOD AS A LAWYER, SENATOR AND TELEVISION PERSONALITY, HE ENTERED THE DAIL (LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT -- PRO-NOUNCED DOYLE) IN 1965. IN 1970 HE BECAME PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, AND JUST THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO FIANNA FAIL'S FALL FROM POWER IN 1973 HE BECAME MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND POWER. WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER LENIHAN LOST HIS DAIL SEAT IN 1973, O'KENNEDY WAS NAMED AS SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER. DURING THE OUT YEARS, 1973-77, HE TRAVELED MUCH, AND COUNTS AS HIS GREATEST EXPERIENCE MEMBERSHIP IN THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION AND A RESULTING ACQUAINTANCE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI. O'KENNEDY VISITED THE U.S. AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN OCTOBER 1977, AND TALKED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE. THOUGH SLIGHTLY THINNING ON TOP, HE IS A WELL-BUILT, HANDSOME, CHARMING MAN WITH A READY SMILE AND AN EASY CONVERSATIONALIST. HE HAS A HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF HUMOR AND GREATLY APPRECIATES WIT AND BANTER. HE IS A KEEN SPORTSMAN AND PLAYS GOLF WHEN HE GETS A CHANCE. MUSIC AND PHILOSOPHY ARE OTHER MAJOR INTERESTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00032 02 OF 02 061245Z

5. BREDA O'KENNEDY, WIFE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IS 39. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN, TWO GIRLS AGED 4 AND 1, AND A BOY AGED 8. SHE IS AN ARTICULATE, INTELLIGENT, STRIKINGLY ATTRACTIVE, INTERESTING WOMAN, BUT STILL SOMEWHAT SHY ON FORMAL OCCASIONS. BEFORE THEIR MARRIAGE SHE HAD A CAREER IN BUSINESS, AND SHE MAINTAINS MANY INTERESTS SUCH AS LITERATURE, SPORT, MUSIC (SHE IS AN OPERA BUFF), AND PARTICULARLY THEATRE.

6. ASIDE FROM FORNMIN AND MRS. O'KENNEDY, THE PRINCIPAL IRISH OFFICIAL PRESENT WILL BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, JOHN BURKE. AS YET WE HAVE NO INFO ON OTHER OFFICIALS.

7. OUR SUGGESTIONS ON TOPICS TO BE COVERED HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN THE BACKGROUND MATERIAL BEING PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

8. EMBASSY OFFICIALS PRESENT WILL BE:

CHARGE AND DCM: JACK RENDAHL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER: JOE KRENE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: JOHN MURTHA
POLITICAL OFFICER: BOB DUBOSE RENDAHL

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